



Space Observer

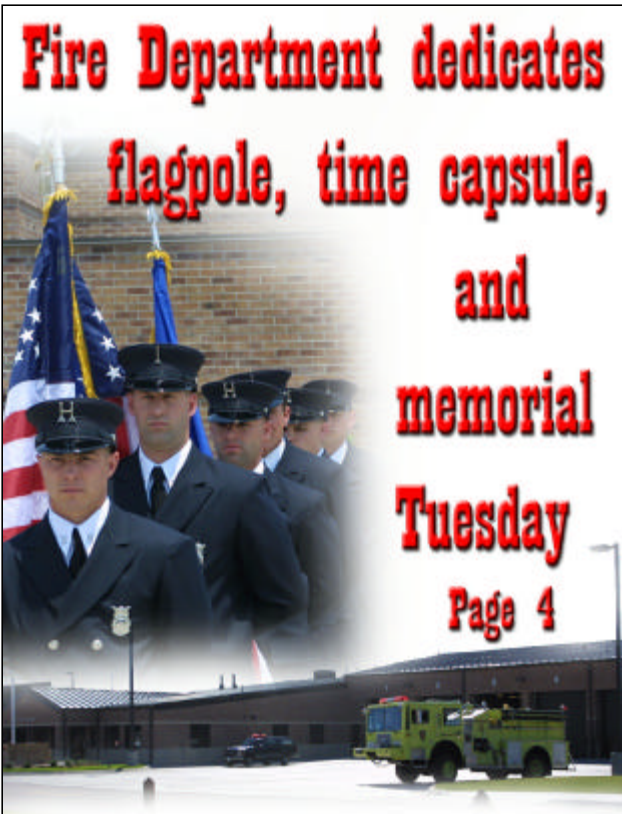


The 21st Space Wing welcomes commanders and leaders representing its 44 worldwide units, plus guest speakers from across the Air Force, as they gather for the annual 21st SW Leadership Conference this week.

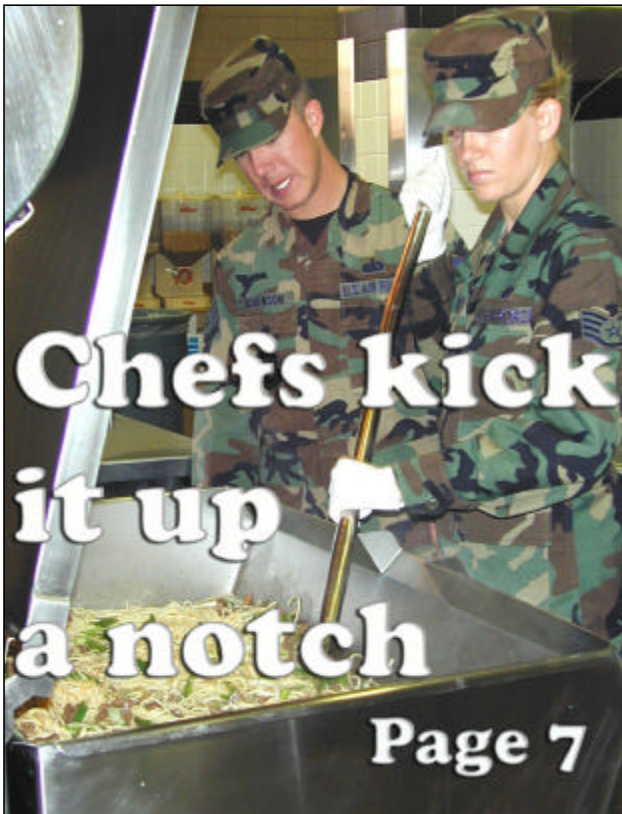


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Photo by Eugene Chavez



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Photo by Margie Arnold





Let's talk space

Airman 1st Class Lenny Washington, 7th Space Warning Squadron, explains some of his duties as a space console operator to Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander. The 7th SWS is a geographically separated unit of the 21st SW located at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and guards the West Coast against sea-launched ballistic missiles.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Shannon Shull

Senior leaders expand anthrax vaccine program

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

[Air Force Print News](#)

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior leaders recently approved expansion of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program within the service, meaning more servicemembers will be asked to roll up their sleeves in the near future.

The Air Force Anthrax Vaccine Implementation Plan is being distributed to commanders Oct. 11, said Maj. Linda Bonnel of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

“Installations are to implement the Air Force plan immediately and expand anthrax vaccination to include Priority II personnel,” Bonnel said.

Priority II personnel are military members, emergency-essential Department of Defense civilians and specified contractors assigned or deployed to designated higher-threat areas for more than 15 consecutive days, Bonnel said. Priority I personnel, who recently began receiving the vaccine, include those in designated special-mission units, and anthrax vaccine manufacturing and DOD research personnel.

Higher-threat areas include countries primarily in Southwest Asia, the major said.

Individuals who fall within the Priority II description will be notified of their need for the anthrax vaccine, Bonnel said. The public health office at each installation will maintain a complete list of the most current higher-threat areas and will ensure troops receive all required force health protection measures prior to deployment.

“The health and safety of our troops is our No. 1 concern,” Bonnel said. “Vaccination offers a layer of protection — in addition to antibiotics and other measures — that is needed for certain members of the armed forces.”

The Food and Drug Administration has determined that the current anthrax vaccine is safe and effective in protecting against all forms of anthrax infection, a scientific conclusion that was recently supported by the Institute of Medicine, Bonnel said.

The FDA-licensed schedule for the anthrax vaccine calls for doses at intervals of two and four weeks after the initial dose, followed by doses at the six, 12 and 18 month points, plus annual boosters. Individuals who had previously started the anthrax vaccine series will pick up with the next dose due, Bonnel said.

The AVIP was first started in 1998, primarily for those personnel assigned or deployed to Southwest Asia and Korea. Since that time, the program has undergone a number of changes. Most recently, administration of the vaccine has been restricted to a relatively small number of personnel as part of a slowdown due to production and supply issues. Since these issues have been resolved, the program is being reintroduced per recent DOD policy. For more information about the anthrax vaccine, check the official DOD Web site at <http://www.anthrax.mil>.

Action Line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander — use it wisely! Try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible — with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed.

If you can't get satisfactory results, then call (719) 556-7777. You may also fax your question to 556-7848.

Delinquent driving

QUESTION: I am a retired chief master sergeant, and was appalled last week at an example of road rage right here on Peterson. While heading to the ticket office, I had stopped at a 4-way stop by the Dining Hall. Having the right of way, I proceeded to turn when a green convertible rolled right through the stop sign, almost hit me, and began blaring his horn, and made an obscene gesture. While road rage is inexcusable in the outside community, I believe it is far worse on base

and in uniform — bringing discredit to you personally, and to the service of the uniform you're wearing.

ANSWER: It's unfortunate that some think breaking laws to save a few seconds on a trip is worth it, for rational people know it isn't. Adding road rage misconduct to their conduct only spotlights their lack of civility. Should you encounter such foolishness again, we ask that you contact Security Forces (at 556-4000) and complete a report so that we may track the offender down and help prevent such activity from reoccurring.

Shower for the disabled

QUESTION: When will they put in the shower seat and adjustable shower head for the disabled in the Aquatic Center?

ANSWER: The 21st Services Squadron is working to address your concern, and submitted a work order (#21360) to the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron to complete the work. Once the equipment has arrived on base, the showers in each locker room will be fitted with a chair and hand-held shower nozzle. We expect the project to be complete no later than Nov. 1. If you have further questions, please call Laura Runyon at 556-4608.



Space Observer

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21st Space Wing Commander
Brig. Gen. Duane Deal

Chief of Public Affairs
Capt. Donald B. Kerr

Chief Internal Information
2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

NCOIC Internal Information
Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano

Editor
Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

Assistant Editor
Senior Airman Shane Sharp

A Moment in Time: October



■ On Oct. 18, 1984, the B-1B Lancer took its first flight.

■ On Oct. 20, 1911, the original Wright Army plane was delivered to the Smithsonian Institute.

■ On Oct. 21, 1947, the Northrop YB-49 flying wing jet bomber took its first flight. The Air Force's B-2 Stealth bomber would bear a familiar resemblance to this plane.

■ On Oct. 23, 1972, Operation Linebacker I ended.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office.

Top enlisted member visits Pete complex

CMSAF speaks out about enlisted, Air Force issues

**By Tech. Sgt.
Gino Mattorano**
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Air Force enlisted members should understand their great value to our nation's readiness and the honor of serving in their nation's Air Force, said the service's top enlisted member during a visit to Peterson, Schriever and Cheyenne Mountain Oct. 7-8.

A key goal of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray is to help the enlisted corps improve its readiness and combat capabilities.

"Our enlisted force is the best in the world," said Murray. "But we need to better train our people to meet the needs of today's combat environment. We're going to provide training in the expeditionary Air Force process – in areas like integrating forces in a deployed location. We still need to improve our expeditionary capabilities, and that comes from training, effective organizations, and a mindset focused on combat readiness. And we're going to continue to emphasize that."

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, forever changed America and America's Air Force.

"There's no way I'm ever going to forget that our nation was attacked and that nearly 3,000 people lost their lives," said Murray. "There's always been a focus on mission readiness, but now we've got to be

ready to fight the war we're in and any other that might come our way. We need our young airmen today to recognize how critical their service is to us, and how their actions impact our nation's readiness."

To maintain the enlisted force at a high level of readiness, the Air Force relies on recruiting and retaining quality people, according to the chief. The chief believes that the airmen currently entering the Air Force are up to the challenge.

"I often have the opportunity to visit the Air Force's newest airmen at basic military training [at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas]," said Murray. "When I stand before those airmen after six weeks of training, I am in awe of how motivated they are and their understanding of service in our Air Force. I feel good about the young Americans we are recruiting. In my visits to bases around the Air Force, I constantly meet airman who absolutely impress me with their dedication to our service and their job knowledge. I think we are doing a great job of educating and training the people who are coming into the Air Force."

Over the last few years, enlisted members have enjoyed higher-than-normal promotion rates, and these higher rates have influenced retention rates.

"We promote people in a particular rank, based on how many we need for that year," said Murray. "Consequently,



Photo by Eugene Chavez

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray listens as Airman 1st Class Anthony Surles, 4th Space Operations Squadron, describes how members of the squadron control MILSTAR satellites through the space ground link system.

high retention rates drive promotion rates down, while poor retention rates drive them up. But the higher promotion rates these past few years can't be looked at purely from our retention data. Three years ago, 46 percent of our enlisted force was in the E-5 to E-9 range, and 54 percent were in the E-1 to E-4 range. We basically reversed that, so that meant that since E-8 and E-9 are capped at three percent, E-5 through E-7 had higher promotion rates as we shifted these over this three-year period of time. I think we probably have reached a plateau, and we should see promotion rates start to level out over the next couple of years."

Another factor that has influenced retention rates is the war on terrorism, which caused many Air Force specialties to be placed on the Stop Loss list.

"Stop Loss affected our ability to take a good look at what our retention rates really are," said Murray. "We should be able to snapshot our retention rates over the next few months, but we believe retention is definitely improving. Among other factors, with the majority of our career fields receiving extra pay, selective reenlistment bonuses have continued to help increase our retention rates."

One particular area the chief would like to place more emphasis on is the mentorship of young supervisors.

"We have great professional military education," said Murray, "but our experienced NCOs need to take the time to personally lead and teach young supervisors good methods of supervising and assisting young airmen. We are a cascading force. The staff sergeants and technical sergeants have the greatest influence on the majority of airmen in our Air Force. Our NCOs need to take the time to get to know their people, help them to work as a team and recognize how important they are as team members. NCOs need to be the example that our airmen want to follow, and that's the key to leadership."

Quality-of-life issues are at the forefront of most Air Force members concerns, and the chief is dedicated to improving the living and working conditions for enlisted members.

"We're on a good path of quality of life improvements," said Murray. "We have made great strides in pay and compensation, and benefits for our people. We're seeing significant increases in the housing allowance. We've seen it rise from almost 80 to 93 percent this year and by 2005, the housing allowance should cover 100 percent of housing costs. In addition, we'll get another targeted pay raise for our NCO corps this year, and we're pushing for another targeted pay raise for 2004 to help

narrow the gap between the civilian sector and enlisted pay."

Quality of life also applies to the work center as well, according to the chief.

"As important as those things are to us, they are not at the heart of our quality of life," said Murray. "It comes down to having a good organization and good leadership for our people, so our people feel good about coming to work and what they do. It's basically the definition of success – it isn't how much money you make, or the status you have. Success should be measured by how good you feel about what you do every day. We want to make sure that people have a true quality of life ... that they understand and really appreciate the value of service in their Air Force."

The chief believes that the Air Force benefits those who are willing to work hard.

"The Air Force has made things simple by defining our three core values: Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do," he continued. "I believe that means to work hard, be a good person, and treat people the way you want to be treated. One thing I've found is that everything that you give our Air Force, you'll get back ten fold. I often wonder why many people don't see that. I'm certainly glad my family and I have. There is no question that what we do in the Air Force is worth doing to the best of our ability."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Bergmann

Tech. Sgt. Alohalani Kaleo, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, presents an official Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station t-shirt to Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray, during his visit to the facility Oct. 7.





FIRE DEPARTMENT
FLAGPOLE
DEDICATION

The Peterson Air Force Base Fire Department will hold a Flagpole Dedication ceremony Tuesday, 1 p.m., in front of the Crash, Fire, Rescue Station, Building 218.

CORRECTION

There was a mistake in the Oct. 11 story on Page 16 of the *Space Observer* about the Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska. The article incorrectly stated that there were no major findings in the inspection. The article should have said there were no significant findings in the inspection. The Space Observer staff apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

NEW WATERING
RESTRICTIONS

The following watering restrictions are in effect for base housing residents from October through April.

■ Residents with even addresses water the second Sunday of each month.

■ Residents with odd addresses water the second Saturday of each month.

If snow and freezing temperatures prohibit base residents from watering on their designated day, they may water on their day during the fourth week of the month.

Watering of trees, shrubs, planting beds, and planters is allowed using a handheld hose with an attached shutoff nozzle, drip irrigation system or bucket according to the following schedule: October, November and April – Two times per month. December through March – One time per month.

An allowance has been

made for trees, shrubs, planting beds, and planters that were planted during 2002. These plants may be watered twice a week during October and November, and twice a month from December through April.

AIRMAN’S ATTIC OPEN
FOR BUSINESS

The Airman’s Attic will re-open this week. The new hours of operation are Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The attic is for use by all E-4 airmen and below.

CHILD CARE
PROVIDERS

Military spouses who are presently providing child care, or who want to care for children other than their own for a total of 10 hours or more per week must be licensed to do so in on-base quarters. The mission support group commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed.

If you are interested in learning more about Family Child Care as a career option along with its professional development opportunities, please call the FCC office at 556-4322.

RE-ENLIST AT
ACADEMY HALFTIME

The U.S. Air Force Academy will host an enlistment/re-enlistment ceremony during halftime at the Nov. 23 home football game against San Diego State University.

Individuals not eligible to re-enlist during the next few months can still participate in the re-enlistment ceremony by reaffirming their oath.

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John R. Dallager will be the officiating officer. Uniform for the ceremony is service dress.

EDUCATION OFFICE

■ Air Force tuition assistance -- The education office now provides 100 percent

tuition assistance. Here are some basic guidelines to keep in mind:

– The maximum the Air Force can pay per semester hour is \$250 or \$166.67 per quarter hour. This equates to \$750 that the Air Force could pay for a three semester hour course.

– Fees required as a condition of enrolling in a course can be paid as part of the overall maximum of \$250 per semester hour.

– There is an annual ceiling of \$4,500 that the Air Force will pay in tuition assistance for any individual. This cannot be waived and there will be no exceptions to this policy.

PIKES PEAK TOP 3
ASSOCIATION

Join an association that is making things happen for the enlisted force and community.

Meetings are the fourth Friday of each month in the Enlisted Club Buffalo Grill Room at 3 p.m.



At the Base Chapel

Protestant
Liturgical Worship, 8:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship
11 a.m.
Gospel Services, 12:30 p.m.

Catholic
Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturdays, 4 p.m.

Religious Education
Catholic and Protestant Sunday
School classes begin at 8:30 and
9:45 a.m. respectively.

**For more information
Call the chapel at 556-4442
for available chapel
programs.

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base.

The following entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Base bumper cars – Oct. 8

A driver was on Peterson Blvd. trying to leave base at 6:30 in the morning when he was bonked by another car at the Paine Street intersection. The other car was traveling south along Peterson and was attempting to yield onto Paine. The southbound driver was awarded a ticket for failure to yield at an intersection.

Holey Dormitory, Batman – Oct. 8

Security Forces responded to a bay orderly's call about damage to the second

-floor day room. Some dunce done did damage, consisting of a four-inch hole in the wall and a broken table. If anyone has any further information, please call 556-4000.

Don't eat food from strangers – Oct. 8

Security Forces responded to the clinic regarding a report of food poisoning. Seven employees at the clinic had eaten three pans of brownies Oct. 7 given to them from an unknown individual. The next morning they all complained of food poisoning symptoms.

Straight Talk Line

556-9154

Call the 21st Space Wing Straight Talk Line for current information on real-world and exercise wing events.

Public Health responded and took samples to test the brownies. Especially with Halloween on the horizon, it's always a safe practice to not eat food from strangers. In this case, we're glad to report the individual making the brownies is far sicker than those who ate them.

Back ... Back ... Back ... Ooops – Oct 9

Security Forces responded to the parking lot of Bldg. 1246, where the driver of a Jeep Cherokee had backed into a government vehicle. The Cherokee suffered a five-inch scrape in the rear quarter panel. The GOV sustained a five-inch scratch to the rear bumper. The inattentive backer was rewarded with a citation for actions above and beyond his ability.

Wake-up Alarm – Oct. 9

Security Forces responded to an alarm at Ent Federal Credit Union. Upon arrival at the scene, officers determined the alarm was not properly inactivated by an arriving employee.

Sick Puppy – Oct 9

A military member called the Fire Department complaining of right-side stomach pains. The Fire Department responded and then called AMR, who arrived and transported the individual to Penrose Hospital for further treatment.

Clinic has the blues – Oct. 10

Security Forces responded to the clinic regarding theft of personal property valued at over \$300. Twenty personal CDs belonging to a clinic employee had been removed and were missing. The missing CDs had been kept in a supply drawer in his treatment room for more than a year before turning up "ejected."

Sick Puppy II – Oct 10

Fire Department and AMR responded to the Child Development Center, where a worker was complaining of vomiting and shaking. bAMR personnel transported the individual to AF Academy Hospital for further treatment.

(Anyone witnessing an unlawful act should call the Security Forces at 556-4000.)





Women’s Health Care Clinic reopens

By Staff Sgt. Melani Epperson
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Women’s Health Care Clinic at Peterson Air Force Base reopened Oct. 11 after extensive remodeling.

“The entire area was demolished and all of the electrical, telephone, plumbing, fire suppression, and lighting systems were replaced,” said Lt. Col. Brian Grassi, 810th Medical Group Deputy Commander and Administrator. “It was then reconfigured to allow for four exam rooms and four provider offices, a renovated waiting room, and

reception area.”
In addition, a new patient screening room was added.

According to Grassi, the layout of the Women’s Health Clinic wasn’t efficient or aesthetically pleasing.

“The floor plan was also problematic for patient flow and proper reception, screening, and service,” he added.

The clinic used to have a fully staffed emergency room, Grassi said, and the women’s clinic was actually the remnants of that area. Once the ER closed, little remodeling was done to convert the area to a clinic.

“By adding an additional exam room and reconfiguring the floor plan, patients are provided a state-of-the-art location for women’s healthcare,” Grassi added. “The nurse practitioners now have their own exam rooms, which improves the primary care relationship they have with their patients.”

According to Senior Airman Connie Campbell, the remodeled clinic looks more

professional.
“Patients may feel more comfortable with their surroundings and privacy,” she said. “In my opinion, it’s one of the best looking clinics I’ve seen.”

While the clinic was under construction, both the clinic staff and patients had to endure a few growing pains.

“Radiology was kind enough to let us live with them, checking in patients, and we actually saw our patients in the Primary Care Clinic exam rooms,” Campbell said.

The project, which began in July, was completed in just 87 days at a cost of \$240,000. The price included the cost of renovation, new furniture, and equipment, Grassi said.

“The 810th Medical Group paid for the project, equipment, and furniture using Defense Health Program funds,” he added.

According to Campbell, the clinic staff will experience better working conditions and higher morale, but the real benefit is to the patients.

“I think it is important for women to feel they have a place just for feminine issues,” she said. “Women can be very sensitive about their bodies and what goes on with them, so this gives them feelings of being home.”

The clinic offers a wide variety of



Senior Airman Connie Campbell, medical technician, prepares a syringe and needle at the Women’s Health Clinic.

healthcare services to the more than 6,000 women between the ages of 16 and 65 who are enrolled at the clinic, Grassi said.

The clinic’s hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are scheduled through Tricare. Appointments aren’t necessary for pregnancy testing, refills for birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy. Refill services are available from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., and pregnancy tests can be done anytime during normal duty hours.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson
Airman 1st Class Jamie Budean, medical technician, helps a customer while Sherri Downing, medical assistant, takes care of some records.

A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

Peterson SVS troops graduate first-ever shift leaders course

By Senior Airman Shane Sharp
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Six members of the 21st Services Squadron graduated the Air Force's first-ever traveling Food Services Shift Leaders Course at the Aragon Dining Facility Oct. 10.

The course was created by the Air Force Services Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to enhance the dining experience of customers by way of well-trained, motivated shift leaders.

The Services Academy sent a message to the major commands, asking for volunteers to participate. Peterson was first in line.

"We volunteered right away," said Staff Sgt. James Martinez, 21st SVS. "We were the first base in the entire Air Force to participate in the course."

The course is accredited by the Community College of the Air Force and is designed to provide specific training to shift leaders while working toward broader goals in Air Force food service.

"This course deals with the transition from current food service methods to up-to-date industry standards," said Staff Sgt. Michael Shimkus, food service shift leader instructor. "It also focuses on new food accounting practices and inventory controls. This is something unique for Air Force dining facilities."

"The class helps shift leaders become more aware of food production and how to present the food," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Race, 21st SVS assistant dining facility manager.

One focus of the shift leader course is training.

"Performing a job the right way



Staff Sgt. Heather Parker stirs pasta as Staff Sgt. Mike Shimkus, shift leader course instructor, looks on.

Photo by Margie Arnold

the first time depends on shift leaders taking our younger troops and training them right the first time," said Race. "A properly trained team ensures a smooth, focused operation, which translates into less running around and more attention paid to the customer."

Motivation and teamwork are also focus points of the course.

"Shift leaders are taught that a motivated team creates a positive working atmosphere, which increases morale," said Race. "They also learn to incorporate teamwork by encouraging younger troops to ask questions, communicate with other team members, and strengthen camaraderie by setting the example."

"When everyone shares responsibilities, they feel like they're part of the team," he added.

"The customers reap the benefits of a well-motivated team," said 2nd Lt. Jason Bennett, 21st SVS food service officer. "Here at Peterson, customers will see an increase in service skills to better serve them."

The combination of the new course and Peterson Services troops was a recipe for success.

Staff sergeants Don Douglas, Heather Parker, Will Robinson, Mark Whatley, Karolyn Kabuss, and Airman 1st Class Tyrane Kugler graduated the two-week course with a 91 percent class average.

SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers' Club		October 19 -- Last gourmet dinner of the year, 6-8 p.m.	October 23-- Mongolian barbeque, 6-8 p.m.	October 25-- Last lobster dinner of the year, 6-8 p.m.
At the Enlisted Club		October 23 -- Country Buffet, 5-7 p.m.	October 30 -- Pasta buffet, 5-7 p.m.	November 30 -- Breakfast with Santa, 8-10 a.m.
At Outdoor Recreation		October 26 -- Kayak lessons end.	November 2 -- Trip to Carlsbad Caverns, N.M. starts.	November 4 -- Trip to Carlsbad Caverns ends.

This Week

■ This week, the Family Support Center will have limited service due to a furniture move.

Today

■ 5K fun run, 11:30 a.m., meet at the Fitness Center.

Monday

■ Mothers on the Move, at the Family Advocacy Center.
■ Silver Spruce Golf Course closed.

Tuesday

■ UNISERV TSP brief, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
■ Base car wash closed.

Wednesday

■ Base car wash closed.

Thursday

■ Get a \$5 discount on Cessnas today at the Aero Club.
■ Session II lessons end, at the Aquatics Center.
■ Play Group, 10:30 a.m.- noon, at the Chapel.

October weekends

■ Get a free game if you strike a red pin in the #1 position, at the Bowling Center.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week

Red Ribbon Week offers hope for drug-free society

Claudie V. Cleveland
Drug Demand Reduction Program Manager

Is there "Hope for a Drug Free America"? Yes! This hope begins with each and every one of us making a commitment to "Plant the Promise," the theme of this year's Red Ribbon Week Campaign.

Peterson is doing its part to fight the war on drugs by participating in Red Ribbon Week 2002. The campaign begins Wednesday and concludes Oct. 31.

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign founded in 1988 by the National Federation of Parents, now known as the National Family Partnerships, as a result of frustration and outrage at the death of Federal Drug Enforcement Agent, Enrique Camarena, on Feb. 7, 1985.

Agent Camarena believed one person could make a difference and dedicated his life to fight the devastation caused by drug trafficking and abuse. He was tortured and brutally murdered in Guadalajara, Mexico by powerful drug traffickers without accomplishing his mission, but his struggle continues.

Since 1988, communities across America and military communities from around the world have joined the NFP in the fight against drugs. The red ribbon is a symbol of "hope" for a drug free society. The yearly campaign is dedicated to remind us of the seriousness of the problem and the need for commitment from us as individuals, families, communities, and the nation, as we continue in the war to end drug abuse.

The Air Force's policy is zero tolerance for substance abuse. Illicit drug use is incompatible with military service, impacts readiness and national defense, destroys families and communities, and kills.



Agent Camarena was a man who never gave up. He saw the misery that led people to drugs and the desperation of their struggle. He experienced corruption in politics and law enforcement and saw the lives of many young people destroyed by drugs.

Let's continue his legacy by joining in the war against drugs and pledge to live healthy and drug free. Let's cherish the lives of our young people and join our nation in this year's campaign by participating in activities that promote drug education and healthy lifestyles. Raising drug free youth begins in the home, and is a responsibility that extends into our community. Let's plant the promise.

Peterson is working hard with the local community to help educate young people about the harmful effects and dangers of drug use.

For more information on Red Ribbon Week or the Drug Demand Reduction Program, call 556-9147.

Red Ribbon Week activities

Oct. 25: Magic Show at Youth Center and 21st Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog Exhibition

Oct. 26: Information booth at Chapel Hills Mall

Oct. 29: McGruff the Crime Dog, 21st SFS, and the Peterson Life Skills Clinic will visit District 20 middle and elementary schools

Oct. 31: Information booth at Peterson Commissary

Peak Performer



Name and Rank: Tech. Sgt. Charlend W. Howard

Unit: 21st Space Wing Safety

Duty Title: Safety Technician

Time in Service: 16 years

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Off-duty Interests, Camping, fishing and cooking.

Accomplishments: I recently completed 7-level school after cross training from the Security Forces career field in February 2001. I am relocating to Minot AFB, N.D., in December 2002 to serve as Safety Superintendent for the 91st Space Wing. Founded the Junior Enlisted Association for the 21st Space Wing.

Why did you join the Air Force? My father served 27 years and retired as a senior master sergeant. I knew at a young age that I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and serve my country.

What inspires you to do what you do? Knowing that I make a difference in the lives of others has always been an inspiration for me to continue doing what I do. Being a safety technician, I directly impact the military and civilian community by preventing mishaps.

What goals have you set for the future? My primary goal for the future is to achieve the rank of chief master sergeant and continue to positively impact the lives of other military members.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

Java to go

Tamra Loehr, a civilian contractor, serves up coffee and a smile at Trina's Brewed Awakenings, the Peterson Clinic's new coffee shop located near the pharmacy at the lobby entrance to the clinic. The coffee shop is open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Have a story idea?

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AF announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Civilian and military employees can sign up for or change current Thrift Savings Plan accounts during the “open season” from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

“TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan that everyone should consider,” said Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, chief of the contact center at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “Current account holders might be interested, too, in transferring money from one fund to another. The TSP folks are set up to handle that.

“Either way, it’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans,” said Stokstad. “It’s important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks. People can choose safer government securities as well.”

“Employees already contributing to the TSP are encouraged to review their TSP plan and account balances,” said Janet Thomas of the center’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team, “as the open season period is the best time to open an account or make changes to an existing one.”

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“You can take out loans and make withdrawals from your TSP account,” said Thomas. “And you can keep your account even if you leave military or federal service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” said Stokstad. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund, the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund, the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund, the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” Stokstad said.

Account changes made on or before Nov. 30 will take effect Dec. 1 for both military and civilian personnel. Changes made after Dec. 1 will take effect in the following pay period for civilians and the following month for military.

Some of the specifics of the program for servicemembers include:

- Beginning in December military members can contribute up to 8 percent of their base pay. Airmen can also invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay. But their total yearly tax-deferred investment cannot exceed \$12,000.

- Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$40,000 in annual contributions.

- Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>. They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

- Contribution allocations, how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds, can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. For general TSP questions, call the AFPC contact center at DSN 665-5000 or commercial (866) 229-7074, or go to http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm

Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>, or the BEST Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>.

- All Air Force civilian employees must make their TSP contribution elections, the amount an employee wants to contribute from his or her basic pay, or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 997-2378, or commercial 527-2378 in San Antonio.

Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276.

- Contribution allocations are made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News. For the complete story, visit www.af.mil)



Photo by Rob Bardua

Electronic warfare testing

The Air Force’s CV-22 tilt-rotor hangs suspended in the chamber at the Benefield Anechoic Facility at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The CV-22 recently completed electronic warfare testing. The purpose of the electronic warfare tests was to test the suite of integrated radio frequency countermeasures, or SIRFC system, which is the radar warning receiver and electronic countermeasures system for the CV-22.

Bush signs resolution authorizing use of force against Saddam

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With a few pen strokes this morning, the chief executive set the nation on course for possibly another major military confrontation with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Sporting a vivid crimson tie, President Bush signed Resolution 114, passed last week in bipartisan votes in both houses of Congress. The resolution authorizes the use of U.S. military power to make Iraq comply with U.N. resolutions it signed in 1991 to end the Persian Gulf War.

The U.S. resolution “symbolizes the united purpose of our nation, expresses the considered judgment of the Congress, and marks an important event in the life of America,” Bush said at the White House ceremony.

Bush noted Iraq has steadfastly refused to jettison its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction programs. He called the Iraqi regime “a serious and growing threat to peace.”

While Congress has now authorized the use of force to subdue Saddam, Bush emphasized he has not yet ordered the use of force.

“I hope the use of force will not become necessary,” the president pointed out. However, he said confronting the threat of Saddam’s Iraq now is necessary by whatever means.

“Either the Iraqi regime will give up its weapons of mass destruction or, for the sake of peace, the United States will lead a global coalition to disarm that regime,” Bush explained.

Any doubters of American determination and resolve in this matter would be unwise to test it, Bush pointed out.

America’s goal in confronting Saddam is not just to limit Iraq’s violations of Security Council resolutions or to slow down its weapons program.

“Our goal is to fully and finally remove a real threat to world peace and to America,” Bush said. “Hopefully this can be done peacefully. Hopefully

we can do this without any military action.” To avoid military action, Iraq is obliged to prove its compliance with all the world’s demands, he added.

As the U.S. military’s commander in chief, Bush said he realizes the risks that war with Iraq pose to America and to service members who would have to face those risks. Yet, he emphasized, those risks will

only increase with time if Saddam isn’t confronted now.

Ignoring Saddam today would create a false sense of peace leading to a future in which millions live or die at the discretion of a brutal dictator. “That’s not true peace, and we won’t accept it,” Bush said.

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against America put the country on notice that it’s not immune from the dangers and hatreds of the world, he said. The attacks have caused the nation to resolve to oppose every threat, from any source, that could bring sudden tragedy to the American people,” Bush asserted.

“This nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign power or plot. Confronting grave dangers is the surest path to peace and security,” he said. “This is the expectation of the American people and the decision of their elected representatives.

“I thank the Congress for a thorough debate and an overwhelming statement of support,” he continued. “The broad resolve of our government is now clear to all, clear to everyone to see. We will defend our nation and lead others in defending the peace.”

(For the complete story, visit *Defense Link News* at www.defenselink.mil)



Excellence in all we do

By Col. Louis “Lou” E. Christensen
821st Air Base Group Commander

“Excellence in all we do.” Have we really thought about what that means? Have we internalized it and made that viewpoint an automatic part of our response to life’s tasks and challenges? Sometimes it helps to address a common phrase from another angle, a translation if you will. By “Sweating the Small Stuff,” we will achieve excellence in all we do. I invite you to read an article written by Col. Larry Strube, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander. As you read his advice about “sweating the small stuff” please think about what you do every-day and how important the details are in the safe and successful accomplishment of our mission.

We often admire those around us who have the uncanny ability to see the “big picture.” These are the people who, amid all the chaos, can keep focused on the larger task at hand and not get sidetracked by all the details.

At the same time, we tend to look at people who emphasize the small details as nitpickers, micromanagers, or worse.

Our Culture is full of phrases that describe someone caught up in the details, like someone who “can’t see the forest for the trees.” But from my point of view, being a detail person is critical to the success of everything we do.

Who would want to go fly in an aircraft where the mechanic didn’t worry about ensuring the engine was maintained to extremely tight specifications? Or what if the software engineer didn’t test and retest the computer code critical to the onboard navigation systems? Ever consider pulling your car out of a side street without looking in both directions?

I hope in these examples your answer would be “no.” In each example, the problem was that details were ignored.

One of our Air Force core values, excellence in all we do, hits the nail right on the head. If we do everything, large or small, to the best of our ability, then successful mission accomplishment is practically guaranteed.

The details are the building blocks for success.

Like a builder, if you don’t spend the time putting in a strong foundation, the finished product may look good but it will never stand up during bad weather. In this case, ignoring the details can have a catastrophic impact.

If a commitment to excellence is not part of your daily routine, you’ll never get to the “big picture.” You must spend the time and effort taking care of the “small stuff.”

In the military, consistently taking care of the small stuff has a name: discipline.

Discipline and details go hand in hand. Without discipline and attention to details, we’re setting ourselves up for failure. We’ll never be able to admire the big picture because the building blocks or details don’t get done.

We’ll constantly fall short of our goals because the small things or details will trip us up. It doesn’t matter if you’re working alone or with a team, paying attention to the small stuff is always important.

So what’s the secret to successful mission accomplishment? It’s a commitment to excellence that starts with the basic building blocks of any task. It’s taking care of the details as part of your everyday routine.

Next time someone tells you “don’t sweat the small stuff,” take the time to explain to him or her how the “small stuff” makes the “big stuff” happen.

When international negotiations take place, the negotiators begin by trying to nail down “the big picture,” or the fundamental framework from which an agreement can be made. But every negotiator will tell you, “the devil is in the details.” When it comes to the “details” or “the small stuff” it is important that we all are disciplined. Sweating the “small stuff” and paying attention to details could save your life or the lives of your Air Force comrades.

We live in extraordinary times. A military command structure is being brought to life to protect the United States. Our military, which for so many decades has focused on fighting our battles away from home ... must now focus on a battle nearer to our home. “Attention to details,” “sweating the small stuff,” “excellence in all we do,” should not be abstract bits of “bumper sticker philosophy.”

In the military, we do “sweat the small stuff” it is our duty, our core competence and a core value. Make it yours.



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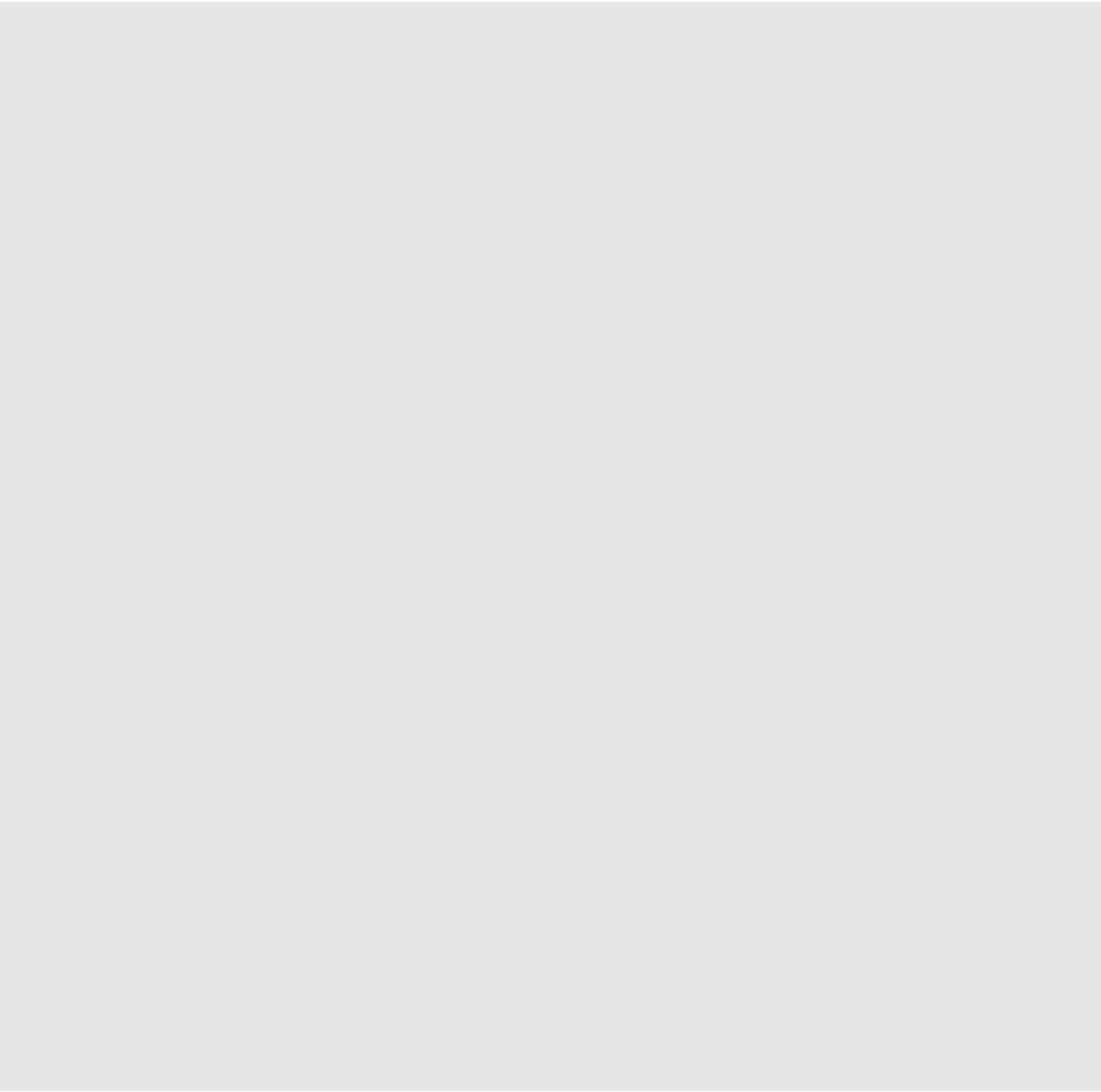


Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Zeroing in

Air Force Academy quarterback Chance Harridge ran for four touchdowns for the second straight game, as the No. 15 Falcons beat Brigham Young 52-9 Saturday night. Contact your unit first sergeant for information about the tailgate party for Saturday's game, when the undefeated Falcons (6-0) take on No. 7 Notre Dame, who is also 6-0.

